

Message Text

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R 312218Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 216159

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABUD, ATRN, EFIN, OSCI, TS

SUBJECT: USE TUNISIAN DINARS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

REF: (A) TUNIS 5412, (B) TUNIS 4338, (C) STATE 147100

1. REFTEL (C) INFORMED EMBASSY OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST TO GAO THAT IT APPROVE USE OF FOREIGN CARRIERS FOR TRAVEL FOR WHICH ONLY FOREIGN CURRENCY IS AVAILABLE WHEN AMERICAN CARRIERS WILL NOT ACCEPT THE CURRENCY.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED GAO REPLY IN THE FORM OF CG DECISION B-184136 DATED AUGUST 17, 1976 THE OPERATIONAL PARAGRAPH OF WHICH STATES: "WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT IN INSTANCES WHERE AMERICAN FLAG CARRIERS RENDER THEMSELVES UNAVAILABLE TO PERFORM TRANSPORTATION SERVICE THAT CAN BE FINANCED ONLY WITH EXCESS FOREIGN CURRENCIES, BY DECLINING TO ACCEPT PAYMENT IN SUCH CURRENCIES, WE ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OBJECT TO THE CARRYING OUT OF THE CONGRESSIONALLY-AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS WHEN REQUIRED TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IS PERFORMED BY NONCERTIFICATED CARRIER. THE CERTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER 4 C.F.R. 52.2 MUST, IN EACH SUCH INSTANCE,

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INDICATE THAT THE SERVICE CAN BE FINANCED ONLY BY EXCESS

FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND THAT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE AMERICAN
FLAG CARRIERS DECLINED TO ACCEPT PAYMENT IN SUCH CURRENCIES.

SUCH CERTIFICATION, SO INDICATING, WILL BE ACCEPTED AS
SATISFACTORY PROOF OF THE NECESSITY FOR THE USE OF THE
NONCERTIFICATED CARRIER." COPY OF DECISION BEING POUCHED.

3. THIS DECISION MEANS THAT TRAVEL CAN BE PURCHASED
FROM ANY FOREIGN CARRIER THAT WILL ACCEPT TUNISIAN DINARS
IN PAYMENT, AND CAN BE PERFORMED ENTIRELY ON FOREIGN FLAG
CARRIERS SERVING THE POINTS OF TRAVEL IF NECESSARY,
PROVIDED THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT IS MET. THIS
REQUIREMENT IS REFLECTED IN 6FAM134.4. IT WOULD STILL BE
IN THE U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS INTEREST THAT TRAVEL BE
PERFORMED ON AMERICAN CARRIERS OVER ANY LEGS THEY SERVE
WHEN FEASIBLE AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE FOREIGN CARRIER
SELLING THE TRAVEL.

4. DEPARTMENT INTENDS APPROACH TO AL ITALIA AND AIR
FRANCE OFFICES IN WASHINGTON TO SEEK AGREEMENT FOR THEIR
ACCEPTANCE OF U.S.-OWNED DINARS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO,
THRU AND FROM TUNISIA. SUGGEST YOU MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH
TO TUNIS OFFICES THESE CARRIERS OR ANY OTHER CARRIER AS
NECESSARY. WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE USG RIGHT BY AGREEMENT
TO USE TUNISIAN DINARS FOR TRAVEL, AND SEEK TO AVOID
REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASE TICKETS ONLY IN TUNISIA. ROBINSON

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